



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

MEETING MINUTES

West Hartford Clean Energy Task Force

February 17, 2016

7:00 PM

Rm 422

1. Roll Call – 7:06 PM

Member	Present	Alternates	Present
Catherine Diviney	X	Ashwin Raghavan	X
Robert Palmer		Vacant (resident)	
Bernie Pelletier	X	Vacant (staff)	
Joe Campanella	X		
Chris Nelson	X		
Total	5		
Additional Attendees	Max Dubuisson, Craig Diamond, Paul Hogan		

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Jan 20, 2016 - approved

3. Receipt of Communications: none

4. Updates & Unfinished Business

- Conversation w/ Denise Hall/Task Force Alternates – Bernie

Bernie recapped his telephone conversation with Denise about the appointment process. She mentioned she we should update Council on our work and have a Liaison and also be aware of any party affiliation requirements. We will proceed with process to select and recommend a second alternate to Council – Max, Dave, or Matt (Craig declined). Chris is soliciting statements. Catherine will check party affiliation requirements with Town Clerk.

- Great Hartford Assoc of Realtors Event @ Rockledge – Craig

Craig said there were about 30 realtors at the event on Jan 27. Slide presentation provided. Presentation covered how solar adds value to homes and how CT is looking at ways energy efficiency can be built into a home's MLS listing – thru metrics like the DOE Home Energy Score. Craig also said realtors themselves are very wary of anything that might detract from a home's selling potential. New Haven Realtors requesting similar presentation. No follow-up needed. Thanks to Craig for assisting in putting this together – task force role is to help support presentations like this

5. Energy / Recycling Plan

- a. Draft of Residential Letter

People felt letter needs “spicing up” and that “a bulb and a slice” idea to offer FREE LED lightbulb and pizza would be catchier and draw people to events. We could use some of the \$15K Bright Idea Grant money that was just awarded to pay for this. Catherine will redraft letter.

Max and Craig will review/edit and send to group. Any changes will also need to be approved by Eversource. They need 8 weeks to mail before April 28, workshop.

- **EE Workshop – Moved to Fall – Th, Oct 6 7-8:30PM**

Catherine & Bernie proposed moving this workshop to fall to take timeline pressure off. Some discussion about it being so far off from letter mailing that attendance would be hurt unless we do a second large marketing campaign.

- Solar Workshop – Th, April 28 7-8:30PM
- Channel 95 videos – almost there
- EV Event – Sat, June 18, 10-1
- Lightbulb event?

General feeling was we should not add a separate lightbulb event. We could give lightbulbs and pizza away at the workshops to boost attendance. Catherine should try again to pitch online Shining Solutions Fundraiser to Schools/PTOs. Catherine is going to talk to Greg Roche anyway and see what they offer in terms of Lightbulb swaps , etc.

- Need volunteers

Chris, Max, Matt – EV. Joe – HES. Bernie, Catherine – videos. Dave M, Bernie, - Solar.

b. Town usage data – Draft Eversource Form

We are getting closer. Eversource shared a Draft Form to request municipal usage data, which will be essentially 2 numbers: residential kwh and “all other” kwh (including municipal). Catherine & Bernie said it is disportioning that it is taking so long and Eversource seems to sharing the minimum to comply with legislation (Public Act 11-80). Catherine sent some comments along those lines back to Eversource and cc’d Roger Smith, since he was involved in the legislation discussions and got better data for Neighbor to Neighbor Challenge. Roger suggested we also rope in Lynn Stoddard, who was also involved in early utility discussions about this data.

6. New Business

a. Next meeting MONDAY, March 14 (visitor: Acadia Center)

b. 100% Renewable Plan – Bernie

Bernie wanted to let group know he is working with Mark Scully of Simsbury on a 100% Renewable Plan for the 2 Towns. It is an exercise (Based on Clinton, CT model) where they are going to try and calculate exactly what it would take (acres, rooftops, etc.) to have each town be 100% renewable, and whether it is achievable with local resources or not (Clinton was not). Some discussion about whether they should call it a “plan” or a “vision”. Right now, it is just called “100% Simsbury/West Hartford”. Bernie will update the group periodically.

c. \$15K Bright Idea Grant

Catherin said West Hartford has won a second Bright Idea Grant. The first grant is being used for LED street lighting. We discussed using some of the second grant for “bulbs and slices.” As part of our energy efficiency workshops. The grant must be used for energy efficiency.

d. Town Garbage Collection

Chris shared with the group that John Phillips (Dir Public Works) had made a compelling presentation to Town Council/Community Planning about moving, in the future, to a “pay as you throw” waste program in West Hartford. This model provides more of a direct financial incentive for people to recycle more and throw out less. There were a lot of questions at the meeting, but a lot of support, including the Town Manager.

e. eeSmarts

Catherine has organized a March 2 meeting with Kerry Jones, WHPS Dir of Curriculum for Elementary Education and Gio Koch of CREC/eeSmarts energy education program. The goal is to have Kerry learn about all eeSmarts has to offer and help “package” it for the schools to get involved. Catherine is also working with Kerry to distribute the eeSmarts Annual Student Contest Info. Deadline for entries is April 1.

7. Adjournment - 9:09 PM